

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

01/28/2013 04:33 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest 1/28/13

OPA Daily Digest for 1/28/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. William Lacy Clay (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 1/23/13: Requests report-out on the West Lake Landfill public meeting held on 1/17. Due: 1/25/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Letter – 1/8/13: Constituent concern about a Superfund Information Request regarding Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., in Cape Girardeau. Due: 1/23/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo): Email - 1/24/13: - Questions following the Westlake meeting. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Local Elected Official Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis - Leisa Zigman - 1/23/13: Questions about EPA's costs at the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Wallaces Farmer - Lori Morgan-Leonard - 1/24/13: Questions about EPA Region 7's flyover inspection activity involving Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KSMU Ozarks Public Radio - Michele Skalicky - 1/28/13: Questions about today's press release about changes in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KWMU St. Louis Public Radio - Maria Altman - 1/28/13: John DeLashmit, chief of the water quality management branch conducted an interview about changes in discharge permits in Missouri. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Hutch Post - Attorney General Announces EPA Air Regulation Blocked - 1/25/13 - Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt Friday announced that a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., has left in place an earlier ruling that blocks a controversial new EPA air regulation.
<http://www.hutchpost.com/2013/01/25/attorney-general-announces-epa-air-regulation-blocked/>
Also Kansas City Kansan

St. Louis Business Journal - Water utilities to split \$105 million settlement - 1/28/13 - Community water systems from Missouri, Illinois and at least four other states will share in a \$105 million settlement of a lawsuit against Syngenta over the cost of filtering its weed killer atrazine from drinking water.

http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2013/01/water-utilities-to-split-105-million.html

Associated Press - Water utilities share \$105 million herbicide settlement - 1/5/13 - More than 1,000 communities that have spent millions of dollars over many years filtering a common agricultural herbicide out of their drinking water are welcoming their shares of a \$105 million settlement with the weed-killer's maker. http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/local/article_4c0be19a-674f-11e2-a70e-001a4bcf6878.html

Wichita Eagle - Gardeners, businesses prepare for extended drought, water restrictions - 1/26/13 - Even though it's the dead of winter, the drought and the specter of water restrictions have injected a sense of urgency into the way garden-related businesses and gardeners are approaching the coming spring. <http://www.kansas.com/2013/01/26/2651385/gardeners-businesses-prepare-for.html>

Associated Press - Missouri bill would allow utilities to add surcharge for energy infrastructure - 1/27/13 - Missouri electric companies could levy a surcharge for expenses such as utility poles and cyber-security investments under a legislative proposal that supporters contend would help modernize the state's power infrastructure. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/01/27/4033993/missouri-bill-would-allow-utilities.html>

Omaha World-Herald - New furnace mandate on hold - 1/28/13 - If you've heard an ad or read a flier warning about a federal mandate that could lead to a costly furnace replacement, no need to have a meltdown. The rule that was to have taken effect in May requiring any newly installed furnace in Nebraska and Iowa to have an efficiency rating of at least 90 percent is on hold and appears headed for a re-do. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130128/MONEY/701289987>

Associated Press - Senate bill mandates school tests for radon - 1/27/13 - A Des Moines legislator is backing a bill requiring all Iowa school districts to test for the cancer-causing gas radon and make buildings safe if the gas is found. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20130128/NEWS10/301280017/Senate-bill-mandates-school-tests-radon>

Associated Press - Barge with 80,000 gallons oil hits bridge, leaks - 1/27/13 - A barge laden with 80,000 gallons of oil struck a railroad bridge in Vicksburg, Miss., over the weekend, spilling light crude into the Mississippi River and closing the waterway for miles each way, the Coast Guard said. A second barge was damaged. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/01/27/4033931/oil-barges-hit-railroad-bridge.html>

Des Moines Register - Letter to the editor: With surplus, DNR funding shouldn't be issue - 1/26/13 - When the stakes are the very air we breathe and the water we drink, I don't see how bickering over what amounts to less than 0.1 percent of the budget surplus can appear as anything but tight-fisted idiocy. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130127/OPINION04/301270072/1035/>

Des Moines Register - Harkin: 'I think it's time' to leave - 1/27/13 - Tom Harkin, Iowa's liberal lion and a powerhouse in the U.S. Senate, revealed on Saturday that he won't seek re-election — a bombshell that surprised political insiders and has the potential to shake up Iowa politics on all levels. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130127/NEWS09/301270102/1001/>

Kansas City Star - Honeywell begins massive move to new weapons-parts facility - 1/27/13 - What may be the biggest industrial move in America began last week when several small nitrogen cabinets used to store sensitive electronic devices were hauled to the huge, new Honeywell nuclear weapon parts complex on the south edge of Kansas City. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/01/27/4034631/honeywell-begins-massive-move.html>

Wichita Eagle (blog) - Is Huelskamp a maverick or irrelevant? - 1/28/13 - U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, has cast himself as a maverick who is representing the wishes of his district, even if it cost him spots on the House agriculture and budget committees. "I don't regret speaking for what I believe and what I've heard in 140 town halls in the last two years," he said at a recent meeting in Cottonwood Falls. <http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog/2013/01/is-huelskamp-a-maverick-or-irrelevant/>

Inside Climate - Enbridge Resisting Final Clean-Up of Its Michigan Oil Spill - 1/28/13 - EPA

demands some dredging of Kalamazoo River, but the Canadian company responsible for the million gallon spill is objecting. Clean-up is in its 3rd year. The cleanup has been long and difficult because the ruptured pipeline was carrying bitumen, a heavy oil from Canada's tar sands region.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130128/dilbit-6B-pipeline-kalamazoo-river-enbridge-oil-spill-michigan-keystone-xl-epa>

San Francisco Chronicle - Major climate changes looming - 1/27/13 - In his inaugural address last Monday, President Obama made climate change a priority of his second term. It might be too late. Within the lifetimes of today's children, scientists say, the climate could reach a state unknown in civilization.

<http://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Major-climate-changes-looming-4227943.php>

Dallas Morning News - New group focusing on clean air illustrates deep rifts over environment -

1/28/13 - The hazy politics of federal environmental regulations has caused another group to form, pitched by a frequent critic of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/headlines/20130127-new-group-focusing-on-clean-air-illustrates-deep-rifts-over-environment.ece>

Chemical & Engineering News - Underestimated Airborne Mercury Levels - 1/28/13 - Amount of reactive mercury in the atmosphere could be two to three times higher than previously reported. A study finds the methods scientists typically use to monitor airborne mercury underestimate the levels of a reactive form of the metal. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/i4/Underestimated-Airborne-Mercury-Levels.html>

The Independent - The tiniest particles that may be a threat as bad as asbestos - 1/27/13 - Europe is failing to control a burgeoning industry in microscopic materials, prompting claims that it has failed to heed the lessons from millions of asbestos deaths.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/the-tiniest-particles-that-may-be-a-threat-as-bad-as-asbestos-8468367.html>

BBC News - Chemical defects 'last generations' - 1/25/13 - Scientists believe they have shown exposure to certain chemicals in the womb can cause changes that are passed through generations.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21202026>

NPR - Focus On Fracking Diverts Attention From Horizontal Drilling (audio - 4:27) - 1/27/13 -

Mention the recent surge in oil and natural gas production in the U.S. and one word comes to mind for a lot of people: "fracking." But there's another technology that is just as responsible for drilling booms happening across the country: horizontal drilling.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/01/27/170015508/focus-on-fracking-diverts-attention-from-horizontal-drilling?ft=1&f=1025>

The Economist - The politics of e-waste | A cadmium lining - 1/26/13 - Growing mounds of electronic scrap can mean profits or scandals. Waste consisting of dead electronic goods, or e-waste, is growing at three times the rate of other kinds of rubbish.

<http://www.economist.com/news/international/21570678-growing-mounds-electronic-scrap-can-mean-profits-or-scandals-cadmium-lining>

Associated Press - Ford, Daimler, Nissan to research hydrogen cars - 1/28/13 - Ford is joining with Daimler and Renault-Nissan to speed development of cars that run on hydrogen, with hopes of bringing a vehicle to market in as little as four years. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130128/AP05/301289947>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

EPA Helps Missouri Comply with Water Quality Standards – 1/28/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

1/29/13 - Visit the Training and Logistics Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/4/13 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources/EPA Workplan Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact, Karen Flournoy, 7782

2/4-5/13 - Meet with Iowa Citizens for Community Involvement and the Iowa Environmental Council, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact Karen Flournoy, 7782 and Josh Svaty, 7202

2/6/13 - Meet and greet with Chairman Dennis Hedke, Kansas House Energy and Environment Committee, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/6-8/13 - Strategic Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***2/21/13** - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

4/16/13 - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

DRA:

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/5/13 – Meet and greet with John Frece, Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC), Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/7/13 - 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/19/13 - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan. Contact:

Dana Peters, 7444

4/15-17/13 - Attend Executive Management Council meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

SA:

1/29-30/13 - Attend No-Till on the Plains Conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

2/4-5/13 - Attend IDNR/EPA Workplan Meeting and Meet with Iowa Citizens for Community Involvement and the Iowa Environmental Council, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/J

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/31/13 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Mary Tietjen Mindrup, 7431; Stan Calow, 7410

2/7/13 - Missouri Water Classification Workgroup Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

2/7/13: Development of Nebraska Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands meeting, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Eliodora Chamberlain, 7945

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